

# ONE SPOKANE STADIUM™



Joe Albi Way on North Bank of Spokane River

## FACILITY FACTS

ONE Spokane Stadium opened in September of 2023 as home to high school sports, professional soccer, and a variety of entertainment events. Stands seat 5,000 with total facility capacity of 10,000-15,000 for concerts and other large events. The facility includes locker rooms, media boxes, concessions and large group gathering spaces.

- Spokane Public Schools (SPS) built the stadium, which will be maintained and operated by Spokane Public Facilities District (PFD), saving SPS more than \$30 million in operations costs, according to conservative estimates.
- When SPS isn't using the stadium, the PFD will schedule professional sports, concerts, and other events, providing entertainment and another positive economic boost for our community.
- A study commissioned by the Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP) found that a downtown stadium would generate \$11.4 million in positive annual economic impact for our city, versus \$1.3 million if the stadium were to remain in Northwest Spokane.
- ONE Spokane Stadium is central to SPS schools, providing more accessibility for families and students, increased transit options, and free parking for SPS events. School programs received a historic amount of revenue from ticket sales this fall.



## The Need for a New Facility

Ten years ago, Spokane Public Schools took over operations of the aging Joe Albi Stadium from the City of Spokane. The stadium's infrastructure was deteriorating rapidly, the layout had significant security concerns, and it had a capacity far greater than needed for high school events. Maintaining the old facility for many more decades was not realistic from a fiscal or safety perspective.

## Bond and Advisory Vote

The SPS School Board decided to include a stadium replacement in our 2018 bond. Also on that ballot was a non-binding advisory vote. The City asked residents whether they preferred the new stadium be built on the existing site in northwest Spokane, or downtown next to the Spokane Arena and what's now the Podium sports complex. The residents who voted showed a preference for rebuilding at the Albi site.

More than 10,000 SPS residents who live in Spokane County were unable to vote on the city's advisory measure, and roughly 5,000 Cheney and Mead school district residents who live within city boundaries were able to cast a vote about the SPS stadium location, even though they don't contribute to the district's bonds.

## A Cost-Saving Plan is Proposed

Early plans for a downtown stadium location were very preliminary and parking availability was unclear. Following the 2018 advisory vote, the school board was approached by the Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP), which proposed we partner with the Spokane Public Facilities District (PFD) and build the stadium downtown where the PFD would take over operations and maintenance. The new proposal showed that by doing this, the district could save more than \$25 million dollars over the stadium's projected 50-year lifespan. In 2021, SPS launched a survey to the community that shared more details about the plan, including the concept of free parking for SPS events. The majority of participants expressed overwhelming support for the downtown location.

## The Board Decides on Downtown

The board was faced with a decision: Take the path advised by the city's ballot advisory measure or save the district millions of dollars. They ultimately decided that the downtown site was the fiscally responsible choice. For the same cost of building and maintaining a new stadium in the Northwest corner of Spokane, the district could build a first-class, centrally located stadium and put taxpayer dollars back into education.